

Support Testimony for H.B. Bill No. **6814**

"AN ACT CONCERNING DENTAL ASSISTANTS AND
EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL AUXILIARY."

I am the Program Director for a new Dental Assistant Program at Manchester Community College in Manchester, Connecticut. I began my life-long career in dentistry in 1967 and earned my Certified Dental Assistant (C.D.A.) designation in 1968 after graduating from an accredited dental assisting program and passing a comprehensive national board examination. I worked as a dental assistant, taught dental assisting at a community college in St. Louis, Missouri, and served as Program Director for a Dental Assisting Program in Jefferson City, Missouri for years before moving to Connecticut.

I am currently licensed to perform the following expanded functions in the state of Missouri:

Restorative I

- Sizing and cementing of prefabricated crowns;
- Placing, condensing, and carving amalgam for Class I, V, and VI restorations;
- Placing composite for Class I, V, and VI restorations;
- Minor palliative care of dental emergencies (place sedative filling).

Fixed Prosthodontics

- Place retraction cord in preparation for fixed prosthodontic impressions;
- Extra-oral adjustments of fixed prosthesis
- Extra-oral adjustments of removable prosthesis during and after insertion;
- Final cementation of any permanent appliance or prosthesis;
- Making impressions for the fabrication of any removable or fixed prosthesis/appliance.

Removable Prosthodontics

- Place retraction cord in preparation for fixed prosthodontic impressions;
- Extra-oral adjustments of fixed prosthesis;
- Extra-oral adjustments of removable prosthesis during and after insertion;
- Final cementation of any permanent appliance or prosthesis;

- Making impressions for the fabrication of any removable or fixed prosthesis/appliance.

Orthodontics

- Preliminary bending of archwire;
- Removal of orthodontic bands and bonds;
- Final cementation of any permanent appliance or prosthesis;
- Making impressions for the fabrication of any removable or fixed prosthesis/appliance
- Placement and cementation of orthodontic brackets and/or bands.

I taught the above listed expanded functions and I certified working dental assistants, dental hygienists, and pre-dental students across the state of Missouri for nine years. Expanded functions have been so successful that Missouri passed new legislation to add an expanded function license in Restorative II:

Restorative II

- Sizing and cementing of prefabricated crowns
- Placing, condensing, carving, and finishing amalgam for Class I, II, III, IV, V, and VI restorations;
- Placing and finishing composite for Class I, II, III, IV, V, and VI restorations;
- Minor palliative care of dental emergencies (place sedative filling).

Expanded Functions are reversible procedures that do not pose a risk to the dental patient.

Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries have been in existence long enough to have well-developed training models, calibrations in competency testing, and quality assurance benchmarks. States have effectively trained and certified, registered, or licensed these individuals for more than twenty years to assist dentists in providing quality healthcare to the population. Access to care is not a one-dimensional issue, but Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries have historically had a positive impact in addressing this problem. Yet I have been in the dental profession long enough to observe years of legislative lobbying in opposition to expanded functions for dental assistants. I conclude that training dental assistants according to the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation standards has been grossly underestimated. I invite members of the legislature to tour the Dental Assistant Program at Manchester Community College to experience first-hand, the depth and breadth of knowledge and clinical competency required to graduate with a certificate in dental assisting. It is astounding.

I ask for your informed support of H.B. No. 6814. I ask that you keep this bill intact and allow it to stand alone. The general public has a right to expect this support from the legislators and healthcare providers who are charged with promoting and safeguarding their welfare. They are counting on all of us.

Respectfully Submitted,

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